

Brussels Weekly update – 04/08/2017

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

Parliamentary Questions: Members of the EP (MEP) can submit questions for written answer to the European Commission (among other EU Institutions). The content of questions is the sole responsibility of their author(s), and a MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month. Below there are two EP questions related to the Brexit to be responded by the EC.

- [Implications of Brexit for EU structural funds.](#)

- **European Council:**

- [23 cities offer to host UK-based EU agencies.](#)

MORE INFORMATION

- [Importance of trade with the EU for UK industries.](#) House of Commons Library.

This briefing paper looks at the importance of trade with the EU for UK sectors and industries. Both imports and exports matter to firms, and this briefing considers both.

- [Employment of other EU nationals in the UK.](#) House of Commons Library.

This paper provides statistics on nationals of other EU countries who are working in the UK: how many are employed, what kind of work do they do and where do they live, and how numbers have changed over time.

- [Brexit: the July negotiations.](#) House of Commons Library.

This papers summaries the main subjects of negotiation during the second round of Brexit discussions from 17 to 20 July 2017. This first phase of the negotiations aimed to reach agreement on citizens' rights, the financial settlement and the border between Ireland the Northern Ireland, as well as other separation issues, such as Euratom, EU external agreements and dispute resolution. The UK Government has been asked for more clarification at the next round. Insufficient progress by October may jeopardize the negotiations on to future trade relations between the EU and the UK.

- [Bridging the Brexit Gap Options for transition.](#) Source IoD (Institute of Directors).

IoD is an independent association of business leaders that has published a series of proposals for a business-friendly transition in the context of Brexit.

- [Brexit: the implications for UK ports.](#) Source Oxera.

The author of this article concludes that a 'no deal' on a customs union would have extremely serious consequences for the UK economy and recommends a policy direction in this area as a priority for the government when Parliament returns from recess.

- [UK targets preferential trade terms with Mexico after Brexit](#). Source WTO Center.

Mexico and Britain have begun informal talks on an agreement to maintain UK's preferential trade deal with Mexico after Brexit, British international trade secretary Liam Fox said on Thursday.

- [How might Brexit affect food prices?](#). Source IFS.

IFS published an analysis with a focus on how different households might be affected by changes in the costs of food imports, due to tariff changes and exchange rate movements.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Union's tariff quotas for certain prepared or preserved fish originating in Thailand](#). Source EU Official Journal.

On 31st July the EC published an implementing Regulation on the EU tariff quotas for certain prepared or preserved fish originating from Thailand. Imports into the Union of prepared and preserved fish originating in Thailand that benefit from the tariff quotas opened by Regulation (EC) No 847/2006 are subject to the presentation of a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) in accordance with the conditions laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 136/2004. The procedure for issuing the CVED provides sufficient guarantees as to the origin of the prepared or preserved fish.

In addition, customs authorities may require the declarant to prove the origin of the goods in accordance with Article 61 of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013. This allows for other means of proof than a formal certificate and ensures that the relevant rules are applied properly.

This implementing Regulation states that the requirement to present a specific certificate of origin in order to benefit from the tariff quotas for the goods concerned originating in Thailand should be deleted from Regulation (EC) No 847/2006.

Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/2006 are replaced by the following: "The origin shall be determined in accordance with the provisions in force in the Union". The tariff quotas set out in this Regulation shall be managed in accordance with Articles 49 to 54 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447.

- [FVO audit report on fishery products from Cape Verde](#). Source FVO.

FVO carried out an audit mission in Cape Verde from 22 February to 2 March 2017 to evaluate whether the official controls put in place by the competent authority can guarantee that the conditions of production of fishery products in Cape Verde destined for export to the EU are in line with the requirements laid down in EU legislation and in particular with the health attestations contained in the model health certificate laid down in Appendix IV to Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005.

Some weaknesses were identified concerning the official laboratory as well as with the organisation and execution of official sampling and analyses which could affect the food safety of produce delivered to the export chain for the EU. The transfer from ACOPECSA (Competent Authority for Fishery Products) to the new competent authority might pose a risk for the implementation of official controls, in particular taking into account that relevant information about the functioning of the new competent authority was not provided to the audit team.

- [Outcome of a series of Study visits to certain Member States to collect information and gain essential knowledge on the aquaculture sector](#). Source European Commission.

The EC published the minutes of the last Standing Committee on plants, animals, food and feed held in Brussels on 13 July 2017. The Commission informed Member States about the background, purpose and main outcome of a series of Study visits to three Member States to collect information and gain essential knowledge on the aquaculture sector for the purpose of drafting better supplementary legislation within the framework of the new Animal Health Law. A written report from the Study visits will be sent to the Member States. Links to declarations presented will be found [HERE](#).

- [Compilation of seven fisheries subsidies proposals circulated to WTO members](#). Source WTO.

The compilation matrix reflects seven textual proposals: from New Zealand, Iceland and Pakistan; the European Union; Indonesia; the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group of States; a Latin American group composed of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru and Uruguay; the Least-Developed Countries (LDC) Group; and Norway. All seven proposals are aimed at reaching a decision by December at the 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires.

EP Questions:

- [Collecting accurate fish stock data in Mediterranean waters](#). Roberta Metsola (PPE).

Useful links:

- [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1398 of 25 July 2017 amending Regulation \(EU\) 2017/127 as regards certain fishing opportunities](#)
- [Multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea](#).
- [EUMOFA Monthly Highlights No. 7/2017](#).
- [Systems for training and certification of seafarers in Fiji](#).

Events:

- [Scientific Seminar on the status of European fish stocks](#). 27 September. Brussels.
- [Safeguarding the Food Chain - Protecting Authenticity and Integrity](#). October 5-6. Dublin.
- [Our Ocean 2017](#). 5-6 October. Malta.
- [Humber Seafood Summit](#). October 10-11. Grimsby.